

ST. PAUL (May 19, 2005) — Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) announced that Ka Xiong of St. Paul has received a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. In January, Congresswoman Betty McCollum nominated Xiong, a senior at Arlington High School.

Xiong and her father Lee Xiong attended a reception hosted by Congresswoman McCollum honoring United States Service Academy appointees.

"I am so pleased to announce that Ka Xiong received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy," said McCollum. "She is among Minnesota's most intelligent and talented young people. It is believed that Ka is the first Hmong woman admitted to the academy, and she will be an inspiration to other students who plan on following in her footsteps."

The Arlington High School senior is the school's top student, its Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp.'s top cadet and its first-ever appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Xiong carries a perfect grade-point average while also playing softball and serving as leader of her drill team and color guard. □

McCollum commends Naval Academy appointee



Congresswoman Betty McCollum congratulates U.S. Air Force Academy appointee Ka Xiong from St. Paul at a reception honoring the appointees to the class of 2010.